

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION  
New Atty. Docket No. P0818  
(Old Atty. Docket No.: 067470.0164)

Serial No.:10/718,341  
Filed: Nov. 20, 2004

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Remarks

Reconsideration and allowance of the above-referenced application are respectfully requested. The foregoing amendments are responsive to the June 8, 2005 Office Action. Applicants respectfully request entry of the requested amendments and reconsideration of the application in view of the following comments.

Response to the Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C §§ 102 and 103

Claims 1-3, 5, 6, 8-10, 12, 16, 17, 26-30, 32, 36, and 37 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,404,570 issued to McNeil et al. The rejection asserts that McNeil allegedly teaches each element of the claims. Claims 7, 13-15, 31, 33-35 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over McNeil in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,687,071 issued to Nagai et al.. The rejection asserts that McNeil allegedly teaches each element of the claims except for a cleaning operation, which is allegedly taught by Nagai. . Claims 18-25 and 38-45 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over McNeil in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,266,199 issued to Gillis et al.. The rejection asserts that McNeil allegedly teaches each element of the claims except for rewriting the user data, which is allegedly taught by Gillis. . Claim 11 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over McNeil in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,172,381 issued to Karp et al.. The rejection asserts that McNeil allegedly teaches each element of the claims except for monitoring in idle mode, which is allegedly taught by Karp. Claims 1-45 are canceled herein and Claims 46-53 are added to better define the invention of the present application.

New Claims 46- 53 are directed to a method of operating an information storage system in which an evaluation parameter such as the position error signal is measured and compared to a predetermined value. If the evaluation parameter exceeds the predetermined value, it is assumed the heads are dirty and a head cleaning is initiated. None of the cited art teaches or suggests checking a parameter and then using the results of that parameter to initiate a head cleaning. McNeil never suggests the possibility that dirty heads may cause a problem as McNeil is dealing with a sealed hard drive that typically does not have to deal with dirty heads. Further, there is no suggestion that any signal degradation in McNeil may be caused by dirty heads. Although Nagai discusses head cleaning, it is directed to a tape drive system. The technology difference between a tape drive system and a hard disk system makes it difficult to suggest one would be inspired by Nagai to initiate a head cleaning. Further, even viewing the two references together there is no suggestion of initiating a head cleaning in response to a value of an evaluation parameter.

In view of the foregoing distinctions, Applicants respectfully submit that new Claims 46-53 are patentably distinguished over the cited art. Applicants respectfully submit that new Claims 46-53 are in condition for allowance, and Applicants respectfully request allowance of new Claims 46-53.

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Summary

In view of the above amendments and remarks, all of the claims should be in condition for allowance. A formal notice to that effect is respectfully solicited.

No fees are believed due with the filing of this response. However, if Applicants are in error, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to debit Applicant's Deposit Account (No. 50-2733) any fees that are currently due, as well as any fees due during the pendency of this application.

Please direct all future communications with regard to this application to the following address:

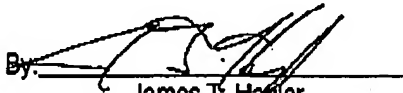
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Certificate of Facsimile

I hereby certify that this correspondence (and any referred to as attached) is being sent via facsimile to 703-872-9306 to the Commissioner for Patents on the date indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: September 8, 2005

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